

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
FOLLOW UP MEETING**

Saturday, June 19, 2004

9:30 AM

Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale
Ernst Center

On May 21st and May 22nd the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services facilitated a weekend ***Community Engagement*** with stakeholders in Annandale and Fairfax County organization representatives wishing to address emerging gang activity in the Annandale area. At the end of the Engagement, participants agreed to pursue one goal that could be accomplished within 90 days. The 90 days would commence at a follow up meeting to the Engagement.

The goal the group agreed to pursue was to:

Establish community communication plan that promotes awareness and challenges community for involvement to lessen violence and fear of violence.

The Community Engagement Follow Up Meeting was held on Saturday, June 19, 2004 at the Ernst Center at the Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale campus. After some discussion, members of the group agreed to use a "multi tiered" structure for communication and outreach.

Outreach Materials Committee

Col Chuck Peters agreed to chair a committee that would produce outreach materials to explain the emergence of gang activity in Fairfax County and how to recognize it. Outreach should also provide information to individuals about what resources are available for enforcement, prevention and intervention. He said that a County Task Force (of which he is a member) is working on a proposal which will soon come to the Board of Supervisors. The proposal will call for community outreach and coordination. Chuck's committee will work toward tailoring outreach materials and efforts being prepared for the County-wide initiative to the Annandale/Heritage area. This committee essentially would develop brochures (in various languages) as well as "canned" presentations that can be used as an aide to speakers and would insure a factual and consist message. Working with Col Peters will be Acting Police Chief Suzanne Devlin, Annandale High School Principal Rod Manuel, Michelle Chapman-Campbell of Fairfax County Department of Community Recreation Services (CRS), and Annandale High School PTSA President Carolyn Burrell.

Members of the group then volunteered to chair or to serve on committees that will prepare for outreach efforts into various segments of the community. The committees will begin by gathering names, addresses, etc. Later, members of the committees will provide outreach by serving as speakers, providing articles to local news media, or

visiting businesses to engage them in recognizing gang activity and providing information about what can be done about it.

Faith Based Outreach Committee

Bo Tumas offered to chair this committee, which will begin by pulling together lists of contacts for faith organizations serving the Annandale/Heritage area. Sharon Bulova suggested that Bo start by contacting the County's Community and Interfaith Liaison, Sandy Chisolm. Once material is ready, this committee could organize a "Faith in Action" event, inviting clergy and social outreach personnel, for a discussion about emerging gang activity – what to be aware of – what to do for intervention and prevention. A message from the pulpit about making newcomers to the community feel that they are included could be very powerful. Working with Bo on the Faith Based Outreach Committee will be: Geneva Pope of the Ravensworth Baptist Church, Juan Pacheco of Barrios Unidos, and Bob Wilson.

Youth/Schools Outreach Committee

Rod Manuel will chair the Youth/Schools Outreach Committee. This committee will reach out to students and invite them to assist in getting out a positive message of inclusion, acceptance of others, and the dangers of gang-involvement. Students should be engaged to discuss programs and activities that can combat the emergence of gangs in the Annandale area. The Annandale Community Coalition should be approached to work with the committee on this task. Joining Rod on the Youth/Schools Outreach Committee will be: Marge Bleiweis of the Safe and Drug Free Youth Office, Velma French from Robinson Secondary School, Juan Pacheco of Barrios Unidos, Cheryl An of Annandale High School and Rickie Harris of Northern Virginia Community College.

Media Committee

Col Suzanne Devlin offered to work with Angie Carrerra (Fairfax County Executive's Office) to identify non-English media – radio, television programs, newspapers. Col Devlin is already assembling extensive media lists that could be used to help disseminate information about recognizing gang activity and to publicize information about prevention and intervention activities and programs.

County Agencies Committee

Sharon Wentland will assist David Ellis in the chairmanship of a Committee to identify ways to coordinate County programs, services and resources that can be marshaled to help families, neighbors and individuals affected by emerging gang activity in the Annandale/Heritage area. Sharon referred to the "Community College" program she had just completed and said that it had tremendous value. Working with Sharon and David on the County Agency Committee will be Capt. Jack Hurlock and Debie King of the Fairfax County Library System.

Business Outreach Committee

Sharon Bulova was volunteered to chair the Business Outreach Committee. In addition to the Annandale Chamber and Annandale Rotary, establishments in the Heritage shopping center should be approached about gang activity in the area – what to look for, how to report it, what resources are available to address it. Bob Wilson, Velma French and Debbie King offered to assist Sharon on this committee.

A brief discussion took place regarding the need for funding some of these efforts. Sharon Bulova said our recommendations should benefit from the eventual work of the County-wide initiative to be announced in July. Before asking for funding, she said, we need to identify specifically what that funding would be needed for.

Sharon Bulova suggested that once the meeting was adjourned, meeting attendees stay for a short period of time so that the chairman of each committee could get together with their groups to schedule a date for their first meeting. She asked committees to report back to her office on meeting dates and progress. She said her office would be glad to arrange for meeting space for the committees.

Capt. Chuck Hawkins of Fire Station 8 in Annandale offered meeting space at the fire station. He said the station had a community room that could accommodate 15 to 20 people. To reserve that room, committee chairmen should call 703-256-3131. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 AM.

Attendees:

Sharon Bulova
Rod Manuel
Cheryl An
Charles Hawkins
Velma Frkench
Rickie Harris
Skip Chaples
Geneva Pope
Michelle Chapman-Campbell
Sharon Wentland
Juan Pacheco
Linda Work
Jack Hurlock
Suzanne Devlin
Chuck Peters
David Ellis
Carolyn Burrell
Marge Bleiweis
Bo Tumas
Debbie King